

**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination
under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for:
Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Limerick City and County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on one European site. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as housing, sustainable communities, economic development and tourism, sustainable mobility, climate action, environment and heritage and infrastructure and utilities; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in disturbance effects and interactions with surface and groundwater quality.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that, considering measures already in force through the Limerick Development Plan and having incorporated mitigation measures into the Local Area Plan, the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹.

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process has demonstrated that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of Proposed Material Alterations, apart from the following alteration²:

- To include the Newcastle West southern distributor road as included in the current Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020 – Proposed by Elected Members – Municipal Meeting 6th September 2023. ³

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is required for the above Proposed Material Alteration. The AA will be completed by 23rd September 2023.

The AA Natura Impact Report that will accompany the Proposed Material Alterations is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption.

Signed: 
Signatory
Approved Officer
September 2023

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

² For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

³ Including for the purpose of assessment, the associated amendments to Local Transport Plan.